



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 4

Meeting Date: March 13, 2006
Meeting Location: Noble County Department of Child Services
107 Weber Rd., Albion, IN

Council Members Present:

Dave Judkins, Regional Manager DCS region 4
Mary Southern, Dekalb County Director DCS
Steve Scott, Adams County Director DCS
Andria Eguia, Family Case Manager DCS
Kimberley Wilson, Family Case Manager Supervisor DCS
Judge Michael Kramer, Noble County
Judge Charles Pratt, Allen County

Council Members Absent:

Jan Lung, Steuben/Lagrange County Director (with notice)
Judge James Heuer, Whitley County (with notice)

Rex McFarren, Allen County CASA
Alice Mull, Foster Parent

Others In Attendance: Connie Harmon, Whites; Beth Conway, Bowen Center

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 4:21 pm

1. Introductions and Welcome.
2. Minutes reviewed from 1-31-06 meeting. Minutes approved
3. News letter from Judge Payne regarding RSC was handed out.
4. Handout of allocation of monies handed out. Dave states that this indicates counties preliminary allocations of monies available from SSBG, IVB, Chaffee, FT, FAKT, and IFP/IFR intensive family preservation and reunification. Community Partners for Safe Children is the last column.

This sheet indicates where the money is going. As a reminder, at the last meeting RSC voted that providers scoring an 85 and above to be approved for use. The monies represented here constitute less than 5% of monies we have. Once these allocated monies are gone the counties then go into spending the county allocated dollars.

- a. The only provider that submitted an RFP for community providers was SCAN from Ft Wayne. After September, as a rule, DCS will not be providing services unless there is a substantiated investigation. The intent then is for the community partners program to pick up those not requiring court interventions. SCAN's proposal has a 3 tracks: one based on financial need and will make economic resource hook up; another based on a mental health hook up for Case Management and Northern Indiana Wraparound; and a third involving disability will run through Easter Seals ARC. The new contract starts in July. SCAN will need to get the proposal hammered out. There were start up monies to get this program going.
- b. The question was asked, "The next step was to negotiate rates is this being done?" Dave responds, that yes this is being done. Jim Shively is making phone calls to providers regarding this. There were some top heavy rates in structure. Question was asked that if it is impossible to come to an agreement can it be put back out? Dave responded that yes it would be put back on the table. Dave reminds that this year the rate ranges were not given to providers. Dave stated that most were reasonable and some were high with regard to their rates. Directors made comments regarding rates on the evaluation forms and these were kept and presented to Jim Shively. Jim Shively will be working on this probably the next couple of months. Dave stated that next time this RFP process occurs in 2 years we may see the RFP's be reviewed by a group of people at the Central level who review and give providers a pass/fail score statewide.
- c. There are still at least 2 RFP's that will go out. One of those will be for Child Advocacy Centers to allow for complete forensic interviews of the children. CAC's are usually used for sex abuse cases but are not limited to it. CAC's did submit in first round but didn't really fit. We could use another county's CAC at the agreed upon rate. The second RFP is the System of Care Wraparound. Dave is wading through this RFP to give it some flexibility that one may take another 3-4 weeks to come out. This region has a contract with WINGS/NIW but will be looking at more of a state wide contract that will be

similar in every region. Keep in mind any service we feel we need will send to central for development of a RFP.

5. Translation and mediation are services that are needed. It was brought up that we would do well to have mediation RFP. How do we proceed for this? We will pursue these two RFP's: mediation and translation. Dave asks the question as to what we are interested in with regard to Mediation. Judge Pratt indicates that from an Allen County standpoint mediation for the TPR and CHINS processes. Dave suggested that we do an RFP for Translation first, and then by May we can look at the mediation after Judge Pratt gathers some data for us to evaluate. Dave states that we need a pool of various languages that are used in the counties with Spanish being the most pressing. We can look at a variety of languages. We have access to the language line; it is 2.00/minute for the service. It was brought up that the court may have negotiated a lower rate for this service. Dave indicates that from a DCS perspective nice to have someone to go out in the field. The trust factor does play a factor with the use of a phone. One of the main obstacles will be offering services eventually as most providers are not equipped to maintain a language barrier on an ongoing basis. Dave will do a survey with counties and courts and discuss the languages needed. Mary Southern indicates that colleges and school teachers would be a good resource for translators.

6. Andria Eguia, Allen County, met with an attorney by the name of Jerri Mead. She has identified that there is a special immigrant status that applies to juveniles that applies to the Department of Child Services. Wards qualifying for long term care that also have a Judge that has indicated that it is not appropriate to return home qualifies them for special immigrant status. Ms. Mead has indicated that we can submit paper work for special immigrant status. It will allow the child to receive a social security number, work authorization, and would be able to apply for citizenship in adulthood. This would also allow for Federal assistance for placement costs. This is only for long term placements. When there is a parent who is the legal resident and the child is not documented, the child will qualify for special immigrant status – it really could be anyone in the household. It was further explained that if either parent is the perpetrator, and child qualifies for special immigrant status, the parent who is the perpetrator cannot “piggy back” on this status. Any CHINS would qualify – court has to enter the order on this.....delinquency makes it a more difficult case.

7. Hand out provided on the Indiana Practice Model. Dave states that there is a Utah practice model that we have studied and the Department of Child Services has spent a while evaluating the model and has come up with

several clear goals. This model is all strength based. What DCS is doing is we have region 9 and region 18 out of the 18 regions statewide that are modeling this practice provision. They are trying to get the caseloads down with the new workers. The reason that we are doing this is to be able to enforce the concepts of this practice model and write policy that reflects the successes. They have stated to these two regions that they are to keep these principles in mind in all cases. From there we will write the policy around what they have done. The concept involves engaging families, teamwork, and involves family group decision making. The safety of the child is still paramount. It is designed to get the family involved and DCS not always being the dominant member of this group. Assessments are done up front and teaming with the family. DCS is trying to come up with about 10 things to measure based on this model. Examples of measurement would include re-abuse while in care, how many come into system and then reappear, how long to permanency, how long to TPR, and how long to adoption finalized.

8. Discussion on consents for surgeries for children who are wards. Dave states that he realizes that this may be different from county to county and wants to get this consistently throughout the region. Judges offered to talk to their colleagues in the region and determine what would be the best way to get Court approvals for surgery in a timely fashion.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: April 10, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Whitley County Court House

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:50 p.m.